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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Robert Michael GEERTMAN

Group Art Unit: 1761

Application No.: 10/623,573

Examiner: H. Pratt

Filed: July 22, 2003

Docket No.: 116631

For: THE USE OF CARBOHYDRATE-BASED METAL COMPLEXES IN NON-CAKING SALT COMPOSITIONS

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the November 29, 2005 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

Applicant gratefully appreciates the indication that claim 7 contains allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McCardle (WO 01/25365). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, McCardle fails to disclose or render obvious a non-caking salt composition that includes at least one carbohydrate-based metal complex as a non-caking agent, characterized in that at least part of the metal in the complex is selected from the group consisting of aluminum and transition metals, as recited in independent claim 1.

McCardle teaches compositions that can be applied onto granules of inorganic salts, particularly granules of sodium chloride, to reduce the tendency to cake on storage and to